DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 8/5/83
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE 2070 1 1 2057
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☐
RELEASE DENIED☒ in part (b)(6)
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

(619) E

9/21

EXCISE

Dear Senator Cranston:

Thank you for your letter of August 24 transmitting correspondence from [redacted] concerning damages to the USS Liberty by Israel. (b)(6)

The Government of Israel has discharged fully the claims of individuals and a small U.S. Government claim arising from this incident. The Department of State has pressed the remaining claim, for compensation for physical damage to the vessel itself, on a number of occasions. The Israeli Government has denied responsibility but offered to pay a nominal sum which was rejected. During the past few years this claim has been permitted to remain outstanding, but the Department of State maintains that the claim is a valid obligation of the Government of Israel.

Sincerely,

J. Brian Atwood
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Congressional Relations

Enclosure:

Correspondence returned.

The Honorable
Alan Cranston,
United States Senate.

Drafted: NEA/IAI:SKGathers 8/31/77 x22686 #132-2404

Clearance: NEA/IAI:AAHoughton
NEA:NAVeliotes
H:RAFlaten